

community. I would like to personally congratulate both the Taylorville Junior High School and its administrators and teachers for their commitment and dedication to the improvement of public education for the students in my hometown of Taylorville.

CONGRATULATING KEN LEONARD ON HIS 400TH VICTORY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend, Ken Leonard, on reinforcing his Illinois high school football legacy by becoming the only coach in Illinois history to record 400 wins as a high school football coach.

Ken is currently the head coach at the dominant powerhouse Sacred Heart-Griffin in Springfield, Illinois. This achievement actually adds to Coach Leonard's impressive list of accomplishments.

Ken has held the record for career wins in Illinois since 2018 and has led the SHG Cyclones to five State championships and three State runner-up trophies. Coach Leonard holds an overall record of 400 wins and 80 losses throughout his 42 seasons as a head coach.

Ken began coaching at Sacred Heart-Griffin in 1984, and throughout his tenure at SHG, Coach Leonard is credited with creating a winning culture and inspiring countless young lives. Ken's place in Illinois high school football has already been cemented but will forever be cemented more with this victory.

Ken, and your entire coaching staff, and the SHG community, congratulations on this historic win, and we are looking forward to many more.

#### CRISIS AT LAKE MEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the water in Lake Mead has fallen to record-breaking lows not seen since the Hoover Dam was constructed.

Already, Lake Mead has fallen to just 35 percent of its capacity. And as you can see behind me, a bathtub ring taller than the Statue of Liberty surrounds the lake as a reminder of the water that was once there.

This is a crisis that we can fix only with new investment and innovative solutions, and that is why I am supporting the bipartisan infrastructure package and the climate and water investment provisions of the Build Back Better Act. It could not be more clear. Nevada is ground zero for the effects of climate change, but we also are ground zero for the benefits of this historic legislation.

The bipartisan infrastructure package includes more than \$8 billion for water infrastructure. This also includes my water recycling legislation that will invest in large-scale water recycling projects to help keep more water in Lake Mead for Nevadans.

There is not a moment to lose.

The opportunity is here and the time to act on climate and act for Nevada's water and future is now.

#### PROTECT PARENTS' RIGHT TO SPEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with students, parents, and teachers seeking a brighter academic future. From a student's earliest days of learning the ABC's, recognizing shapes and colors, to the moment they walk across the gymnasium floor to receive a high school diploma, their school days have been filled with learning and exploring, reading, writing, and math. Or they should be.

This, however, is not the experience of many of our K-12 students, especially not today. For the last 2 years, students, parents, teachers, and school administrators have been struggling with the global pandemic. COVID-19 has upended routines, hindered learning, shuttered schools, and angered families. These are real challenges requiring active listening and creative solutions. We need parental involvement. We need tutorial advice. We need school board engagement.

Parents are concerned with their children's education, health, safety, and well-being. Parents are concerned with what their children are learning, with what is being taught in the school system. Parents want to know that when they send their daughter or son to school, their children will be safe from bullies and predators. Recently, unfiltered frustrations have boiled over at local school board meetings.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not and will not condone violence, I was stunned to hear that part of the Federal response to rising parental concern with educational practices and pending school policies was to unleash Federal enforcement on vocal moms and dads. This is deeply disturbing.

One particular incident was cited as a catalyst for government's heavy-handedness. At the beginning of the summer, pictures of a dad tackled to the ground and arrested during a Loudoun County school board meeting surfaced. But what is the story behind the headline?

This dad was protesting a school policy that would allow biological males access to girls' private facilities. Why? Because his 15-year-old daughter was raped in the girls' bathroom at her school. The situation was expertly covered up and ignored by the very people responsible for protecting his daughter: the school.

School officials eventually called the police, not to report a serious crime against a young girl, but to restrain a distraught father when he discovered the school was attempting to sweep the assault under the rug.

One such horrific rape should be sufficient for every school district to review who has access to girls' safe spaces. Instead, this half-told story was crafted into a political narrative alleging examples akin to domestic terrorism.

Just a few months after this incident, a national school association letter demanded that the Federal Government respond to unrest, name-calling, and protests at school board meetings across the U.S. The arrest of this distressed father whose daughter had been raped was one of the examples cited in the correspondence to the President as a need for Federal intervention.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Justice validated the concerns raised, not by the father or parent seeking input into their child's education, but to the dubious claims raised by the national association.

Instead of adhering to the constitutional charge to oversee Federal issues, it disturbs me that the power of the Federal Government is being wielded to bludgeon everyday parents into silence. This must end.

Whether parents voice concerns about a lack of safe spaces for their girls, the type of curriculum that is taught at every grade level, or mask mandates, parents deserve to be heard, and every American has a constitutional right to voice these concerns to the government without being treated like a criminal.

It is time we start listening to parents. They are the best arbiters of their child's education, and they deserve respect, not contempt.

#### FREEDOM TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the urgency of passing the Freedom to Vote Act, which the Senate is considering today.

The events of the past year have exposed the fragility of our democracy, and Congress must act now to protect that most fundamental of American freedoms: the freedom to vote.

In 2020, we lived through the most challenged and scrutinized election in American history. But now, even after the result is beyond all reasonable debate, radical right-wing extremists and would-be dictators are still trying to overturn the 2020 election; stoking the flames of conspiracy, hate, and chaos in order to create a dark and twisted vision of America that these agents of chaos have embraced.

Unless Congress acts now, the radical right will keep using the big lie told by the former President and endorsed by his supporters to enact damaging voting restrictions and prevent Americans who have rejected their dark vision for our country from participating in our representative democracy.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where I live, the majority in our

State legislature has embraced these lies and conspiracy theories about election fraud to propose a raft of new laws that would make it more difficult for eligible voters to actually vote. We have an opportunity to put an end to these anti-democratic tactics and Congress must seize it.

Today, the Senate will take a crucial vote on the Freedom to Vote Act, important legislation that is necessary to ensure that our government remains by the people and for the people, not politicians.

Similar to the For the People Act, which the House has passed both this term and last, the Freedom to Vote Act sets basic nationwide standards for how elections are conducted and ensures that the voices of everyday American voters are heard in Washington. It will work in tandem with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore critical protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and combat racial discrimination in voting. Together, these two bills will safeguard our democracy from both current and future threats.

Ultimately, the Freedom to Vote Act is about ensuring that people, not politicians, hold the power in our government.

Let's talk for a moment about what this bill is and what it isn't. The Freedom to Vote Act would set national standards to protect the freedom to vote, end partisan redistricting, ensure sound election administration, and fix our broken campaign finance system.

These key provisions are widely supported by the American people, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. People are tired of cycles of chaos, followed by inaction, when it comes to our elections. The most basic foundational element of our democracy deserves to be treated with seriousness, urgency, and care. We cannot stand by as discriminatory voter laws, partisan gerrymandering, and dark money drown out the voices of American voters.

As for what this bill does not do, contrary to what some of our colleagues across the aisle—and particularly MITCH MCCONNELL—have claimed, the Freedom to Vote Act is not an unconstitutional power grab.

Our Founding Fathers may not have anticipated all the ways our country would change over the centuries and the ways in which we would need to adapt, but they were really, really good in anticipating the evil that men might do in pursuit of power, including anticipating efforts to undermine the most precious value enshrined in the Constitution, the right to a government chosen by, for, and of the people.

One of the ways the Framers did this was in Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution, which allowed States, in general, to regulate the time, place, and manner of elections to Federal offices, like Congress, but with a really important exception. The second half of that section says, "Congress may at any

time make or alter such State regulations."

Why did the Framers do this? Because they already knew of instances in which State legislators might try to corrupt the election process in order to impact the Federal Government, even as they were drafting the Constitution. And isn't that where we are today?

We have States that are trying to make it harder for people who live in cities and people of color to vote. We have State legislatures proposing to overturn the results of the last election and future elections if the party in power in that State doesn't like the candidate that the people voted for.

We have State legislatures proposing to politicize professional election staff and procedures with bills that would allow partisan legislatures to overthrow the Presidential electors chosen by the people and substitute electors who will vote for another candidate.

That is why it is so important that Congress act to fulfill what may be its most sacred obligation under the Constitution to protect the right of the American people to choose their own representatives rather than letting elected officials manipulate that process to stay in power.

If the Senate again fails to fulfill its responsibility with the filibuster intact, then it is time for the filibuster to go.

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#### INFLATION AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind Congress that small businesses and consumers all over the country are feeling the repercussions of President Biden's spending spree.

It is very simple: President Biden's so-called rescue plan has directly caused a crisis we are seeing on the farm and on Main Street. Injecting \$1.9 trillion of government spending into the economy without a clear plan for execution has increased costs and disrupted the supply chain.

All government spending must be paid for somehow, and Americans are paying for it with inflation. Since February 2020, the amount of money in the economy has grown by over 26 percent, so it should come as no surprise that Americans are experiencing the highest price increases since the Great Recession. Consumer prices for used cars and trucks have risen by more than 24 percent, and costs have increased 11.2 percent for furniture, 9.6 percent for household appliances, 6 percent for utilities, and 5.6 percent for clothing.

President Biden promised to raise taxes only on wealthy Americans, but these price increases happening under his direction are a tax on every American. Inflation-adjusted wages are down nearly 2 percent since President Biden

took office, and with the Democrats planning to continue their reckless tax-and-spend habits, American families can expect the cost of living to keep going up.

As if rising costs weren't enough, this administration's so-called rescue plan has created a labor shortage that is weakening our supply chain and leaving manufacturers and business owners high and dry.

Earlier this month, I hosted a manufacturing tour across my district in Kansas, where I visited small businesses that produce and sell products like highway signs, car accessories, and industrial valves. These businesses are the driving forces in their communities, but the leaders who run them all painted the same bleak picture: Vendor costs are rising; labor is hard to come by; and a weakened supply chain is slowing everything down.

The Grasshopper Company in Moundridge, Kansas, builds and sells mowers and landscaping tools, the same ones used by the White House groundskeepers. Grasshopper is facing longer lead times on vendor items than they have ever seen, and the prices on raw materials like steel seem to be rising daily. To meet their customer demand on time, Grasshopper had to pay an extra \$28,000 air freight fee. Back in July, Grasshopper's disrupted supply chain and increased cost of doing business forced them to raise the price of their goods midseason, something they have not had to do since the Carter administration.

Another manufacturing company in my district told me that the supply chain backlog has made it impossible to plan for their future. Their suppliers are telling them that essential inputs like electronic components will now take at least 5 to 6 months before they even ship. Before this year, they never had to wait longer than 4 weeks.

Sadly, these are just two examples from Kansas' Big First District. Small businesses all over the country are being forced to raise their costs due to supply chain issues, inflation impacting their own inputs, labor shortages, or all the above.

To get inflation under control, strengthen the supply chain, and stop consumer costs from rising even further, we need to get Americans back to work, stop the vaccine mandate, quit recklessly printing money, and end the spending addiction here in Washington.

#### SECURING RELEASE AND RETURN OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN HAITI

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the urgent need for the Biden administration to secure the release and return of the 17 American missionaries taken captive in Haiti by a street gang known for mass kidnapping of religious groups.

I cannot imagine the terror they are experiencing in this very moment as we speak. We cannot sit idly by while they fear for their lives.

For decades, the United States has invested in developing Haiti through